

## **Help for veterans coming to Northeast Florida**

WJXT-Channel 4

Aired February 9, 2006

<http://www.news4jax.com/news/6887758/detail.html>

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** -- Help for veterans is finally coming to northeast Florida. After several years of waiting, plans are being finalized for facilities that will help those who defended the country.

Plans have been set to build a nursing home for veterans and a cemetery for veterans.

"This has been a goal in the veterans community in the city of Jacksonville and northeast Florida for probably about 10 years," said Director of Military Affairs Dan McCarthy.

A nursing home for veterans will be built in St. Johns County and two sites are being considered for a cemetery for veterans in the Jacksonville area.

"The nursing home facility will have 120 beds and will be there for veterans based on their needs and medical needs," McCarthy said.

The plans for the cemetery have been more complex because the Veterans Administration still has to choose between a site near the Thomas Creek Preserve and another site that is privately owned.

After a location is chosen, the administration will have to determine the impact the cemetery would have on the environment and how much it would cost.

Also, the cemetery will be run by the federal government and the nursing home will be run by the state.

Construction is expected to begin this year and be finished by 2008.

That's good news for Army Veteran Walter Brown, who said veterans, like him could use the help.

"A lot of people here don't really have transportation. A lot of the veterans aren't really in great shape, you know. They need help," Brown said.

A decision between the two cemetery sites is expected to be reached within the next couple of months.

*Copyright 2006 by News4Jax.com. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.*